



**KENTUCKIANAWORKS BOARD MEETING
GREATER LOUISVILLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thursday, February 22, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Greater Louisville Inc., 101 S. 5th Street, Suite 2300, Louisville, KY**

Members Present: Mayor Craig Greenberg, Tony Georges, Jonathan Westbrook, Eric Friggle, Sarah Davasher-Wisdom, Harold Reynolds, Kim Blanding, Jennifer Lampton, Monica Collins, Rocki Rockingham, Ty Handy, Mike Hesketh, Lyndon Pryor, Cortney Burden, Deputy Mayor Pat Mulloy, Jeff O'Brien, Rick Purdy

Staff: Michael Gritton, Alicia Pardo, Patrick Garvey, Sarah Ehresman, Evelyn Woock, Angella Wilson, Aleece Smith, Chris Locke, Regina Phillips, Dana Moorner

Contractors/Guests: Rodney Cross, Sara Dodeci, Deb Giordano, Rena Sharpe, Martha Stephenson, Tracee Whitaker, Nicole McGill, Jeff O'Brien

Welcome and Greetings – Board Chair Tony Georges

Chairman Tony Georges welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting and thanked them for attending the first Board meeting of 2024. He especially thanked Mayor Craig Greenberg for coming and turned it over to him for his remarks.

Remarks and Discussion: Workforce Development and the Role of The KentuckianaWorks Board in Addressing Workforce Challenges – Mayor Craig Greenberg

Mayor Craig Greenberg pointed out that he has been working closely with Michael Gritton, his staff, as well as Jeff O'Brien and Pat Mulloy on the critical importance of a New Economic Development Strategy. They have also been in conversation with Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI) and others around the city to figure out what the best model is moving forward with workforce development.

Mayor Greenberg highlighted the SummerWorks program and the programs at The Spot that have inspired young adults to explore various opportunities in the workforce. He noted that KentuckianaWorks, like Louisville Metro Government, has many great programs, but the biggest challenge is that people don't know about these programs that can change their lives and that is why the partnerships with GLI, Goodwill, the Louisville Urban League, and the outreach with the Academies of Louisville is so important.

In conclusion, the mayor ended with a special thank you to Chairman Tony Georges. Tony has been the Board Chair of KentuckianaWorks for 6 years, and Mayor Greenberg presented Tony with a Proclamation to honor and recognize Tony's years of public service.

Vote Needed: Nominations for Chair and Past Chair – Deputy Mayor Pat Mulloy

Deputy Mayor Pat Mulloy made a motion to nominate Jonathan Westbrook as the Chair of the KentuckianaWorks Board of Directors, and Tony Georges as Past Chair. Ricky Purdy seconded the motion, and it was passed without opposition.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Minutes from January 2024 Meeting – Jonathan Westbrook

There was a quorum present, and a motion to accept the January meeting minutes was made by Mike Hesketh and seconded by Rocki Rockingham. The motion passed without opposition.



Vote Needed: Staff and Program Oversight Committee (POC) Recommendation to Fully Fund Kentuckiana Builds Out of Our Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funding in FY25 – Michael Gritton and Mike Hesketh

Michael talked about the background and funding from the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Workforce Cabinet to cover half of the Kentuckiana Builds program since it launched in 2016. After discussions with Deputy Secretary of the Workforce Cabinet Beth Brinly, and because the program tightly aligns with the Board’s major objectives, the staff recommended that KentuckianaWorks commit to fully funding the program out of the Board’s WIOA funds starting in the FY25 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). Michael stated that KentuckianaWorks will receive roughly \$4 million in WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds in fiscal year 2025. Choosing to spend \$600,000 on this single program would represent a major investment by the Board.

Michael presented a memo with the details of the recommendation along with several successful testimonials that came from Kentuckiana Builds program participants to enforce the recommendation strongly. He then opened the floor for questions and comments. Sarah Davasher-Wisdom asked if this would displace other programs that WIOA is funding, and Michael explained that it would not. He said that if the WIOA funding continues to shrink, our funding would essentially support three key functions: the contract to run the Kentucky Career Centers (currently held by Equus Workforce Solutions), contracts like Kentuckiana Builds, and KentuckianaWorks staffing. Internally, KentuckianaWorks is working to spread out the costs of staff across all of our funding streams, so that WIOA funding doesn’t bear a disproportionately high share of those costs. This investment in Kentuckiana Builds will not displace or stop any other programs. Ty Richardson built on that question and asked about utilizing the state’s WIOA funds for other pilot programs for funding expansion moving forward. Michael highlighted the programming of Code Kentucky and noted that KentuckianaWorks continues to receive state WIOA funds for that pilot program.

With a quorum present, Ty Richardson made a motion to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Rocki Rockingham. The motion was passed unanimously.

Vote Needed: Review and Approve Staff and POC Recommendation to Issue an RFP for Adult and Dislocated Workers – Michael Gritton, Angella Wilson

Angella started by thanking the board and stated that The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires service provider contracts to be competitively procured every five years. The Adult Career Services contract was last procured in 2019 and is currently in its last year of five one-year renewable contracts. Angella explained the Request for Proposals (RFP) processes that were highlighted on page 2 of the memo given to the board members. The RFP was scheduled to be released the following week, and that selection will come back to the board for voting in April. KentuckianaWorks requests approval to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a service provider to administer the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs for the seven-county region starting with the 2024-2025 program year.

A motion to approve the Request for Proposal in February 2024 to procure the service provider for the Adult and Dislocated Workers programs although the budget has not yet been finalized, the contract will likely not exceed \$1,700,000 annually was made by Mike Hesketh and seconded by Rocki Rockingham. The motion passed without opposition.



Vote Needed: Review and Approve Annual Audit from LMBC – Michael Gritton, Jennifer French

Michael introduced Jennifer French with Strothman & Co. KentuckianaWorks contracts with Strothman & Co. to do the yearly audits. Jennifer explained that two audits were completed, one for KentuckianaWorks and one for the KentuckianaWorks Foundation. Michael noted that this will be the last audit for the KentuckianaWorks Foundation since we've now closed it down as a separate legal entity. The KentuckianaWorks Foundation is no longer needed as a separate entity since KentuckianaWorks itself now has achieved 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. KentuckianaWorks is a component unit of the Louisville Metro Government that received over \$750,000 in federal funding grants, and making sure KentuckianaWorks complies with the requirements of the grants is the reason for the audits. Jennifer continued to highlight that both audits received a clean audit opinion noted on page one in the second paragraph.

A motion to approve the Annual Audit Report for KentuckianaWorks and the KentuckianaWorks Foundation was made by Tony Georges and seconded by Mike Hesketh. The motion was approved.

Executive Director's Report – Michael Gritton

Michael began his report by announcing the new Executive Director of KentuckianaWorks College Access Center (KCAC), Kim Harrison. Kim started at KCAC in 1997 as a high school educated clerk. Kim now has her Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree and has dedicated her life to the work. She was the obvious choice to lead the organization. He also announced the new Director of the Young Adult work at Goodwill, Nicole McGill. She will be the face and the leader at The Spot: Young Adult Opportunity Center.

Michael respectfully announced the resignation of Ty Richardson on the KentuckianaWorks Board of Directors and thanked him for his three years of service. Ty is currently in conversation with Michael to replace him with a candidate from Humana because KentuckianaWorks values their partnership.

Michael reminded the members that the JCPS Board reviewed and approved the \$2.475 million grant to KentuckianaWorks recently, which means we've now raised \$2.7 million of the \$3.6 million goal. Our \$900,000 request to the James Graham Brown Foundation will be considered by their Board in May. Over the next few weeks, Michael and his team will create a staffing plan for the new organization to serve the Academies of Louisville.

Separately, Michael has stayed connected with Myra Wilson, the Director of Cumberland Workforce Development Board, and Workforce Board Directors continue having conversations with State Senators and Representatives about potentially being in the state budget. If successful, this will bring in a potential \$4 million in funding for KentuckianaWorks yearly over the next two years, to serve more disconnected young adults, and to allow us to serve high school seniors for the first time across the 7-county region. Jonathan Westbrook encouraged the Board to continue outreach to the State Senators and Representatives, as well as to Board members from the James Graham Brown Foundation.

The grand opening for the Goodwill West Louisville Opportunity Campus will be on March 20th at 10:00 a.m. With no further discussion, Chairman Jonathan Westbrook then adjourned the meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.